

Melody 281

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 281

Chapter 281: The only one I like is you

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Yuhi wanted to ask her that question, but then he saw the look in her eyes. This is so unfair; whenever she makes that type of face, he can't say anything. He felt uncomfortable, so he shifted his gaze and concentrated on the wound on both legs.

But he immediately noticed something else—a bright red color in both her hands. Yuhi felt a throbbing sensation in his chest. Her blood smells so good. Why is it like this? Is there a connection after all? Yuhi heard old tales about it before, but this was the first time seeing it in person.

The blood of your most beloved is the most delicious. Yuhi, however, quickly composed himself.

"Blood."

"Eh?"

"Your hands."

Sumire panicked as she looked at her hands. "Wow, your right?! Eh? Eh? Eh? What? What?"

A deep sigh escaped his lips. Usually, this girl is so calm and composed. But Yuhi noticed that whenever she panics, she ends up doing something reckless. Those are the times she lets her guard down. It is dangerous for her to lose her rationality whenever he is not around. It seems he has to find a way to be with her more.

"You must have gotten it when you tripped. Your legs aren't the only one that gets injured."

Sumire didn't say anything, but he spotted the tears in her eyes. Geez, she is so careless.

Yuhi naturally brought her most injured hand to his lips. A trail of blood was about to fall onto her lap, but he caught it on time with his tongue. He licked and sucked on the red liquid.

He felt her hand tremble, but he didn't pull away. But he instead watched her reaction. Her red stained cheeks and nervous voice.

"Um...I uh..."

An image appeared in his head, watching her this way. Now that he thought about it, she had this expression on her face too the day after he made love with her.

He wanted so much more than this. He wanted her fingers inside his mouth, no he wanted more.

"Y--Yuhi!" Sumire suddenly exclaimed loudly.

A red-stained face, and those eyes -- he felt his heart skip a beat. What is with those alluring looking eyes? What sort of thoughts does she have right now?

"I... I am fine... now," Sumire whispered, as she stared at him with flushed cheeks. "Y-You don't have to do anymore."

Yuhi brought his lips to her knees instead. "But what about here?"

"Y--Yuhi?"

"I'm kidding, and I won't do anything that will make you uncomfortable." Yuhi stood up and looked around. "What is Shin doing taking so long with those bandages?"

His thoughts broke off when he felt a pair of arms wrap around him from the back. "I like the back hug."

"Yuhi, you dummy."

"That's my line. Please be more careful. Even though I want to watch you twenty-four-seven, I can't do that."

"Stalker."

Yuhi laughed and turned around, leading to Sumire burying her face in his chest. She kept calling him names but eventually mumbled.

"Thank you so much Yuhi, it's because of you I can be so happy."

"Then do I get something as a reward?"

Yuhi didn't even know why he asked her that, but the words escaped his lips in seconds. Sumire pulled away and innocently tilted her head. "Then treat me to a parfait. Otherwise, I will hate you?"

H--how is that a re- Yuhi paused when he saw the look on her face. Why does she look so cute? Damn, he already lost before anything started. Yuhi awkwardly rubbed the back of his neck.

"So you want to go on a date after this?"

He initially planned for them to head back home, cuddle, watch movies and take a nap together. Sumire is the same type of person as him, and she prefers staying at home. She seemed content whenever he holds her too. It is difficult to do anything too affectionate when they are in public.

"You don't want to?"

Yuhi grabbed her hand. "No, let's go."

Sumire laughed. "We still have the ending ceremony to attend."

Do they? He just wants to take her away now.

...

Several hours later, they are on their way back to the bar. Atsuro should be bringing that kid back soon. It might be today or tomorrow, but either way, they head back there just in case.

"I ate a lot! I'm full."

"If you overeat, your cheeks will turn-" Yuhi paused in mid sentence. He probably shouldn't finish that sentence; otherwise, she will kill him. Yuhi quickly learned how scary her jealousy is. When one of the new students tried to hand him a love letter, she immediately stole it. He went to the meeting spot to turn that student down, and that girl begged for forgiveness.

When somebody boldly confessed to him in the middle of the hallway, she said that she ought to have a nice talk with her with that bright smile. The next day that girl transferred schools.

What scary jealousy, and yet he found it cute how overprotective she was of him. Sumire would not behave this way if she did not like him a lot. Yuhi knew her very well and saw how she acted towards people she did not care about.

She would become very cold, and that icy gaze enough to freeze somebody. She never once looked at him like that, even from the very beginning.

"By the way, Yuhi, your in the flower arrangement club, right? Do you guys do activities?"

It was already quite late when they finished eating; now it's pitch black. That's why he told her to send a message to Atushi. That guy acts like a mother hen despite his age. Then again, he understood why Atushi behaved that way around Sumire.

This girl has a bad habit of running into danger. Also, Sumire has no idea how beautiful she is. She attracts too much attention.

"Yeah. We have a job request from the student council. But we tend to slack off a lot, and our respective jobs don't help. So it will probably never get done."

"So you and Shouko-senpai are..."

Amase Shouko, a senior who graduated a few months ago, was also a club member. She was the only girl. It seems Sumire spoke to her a bit.

"No way." He said casually at first and realized a second later his mistake.

Shoot by responding casually isn't he admitting it? Moreover, he watched as her expression turned dark. "She is going to kill me if I admit that I had such a relationship."

"Of course not!" Yuhi turned to the girl beside him. "Does all of her verbal abuse of me sound like lies?"

He watches the dim gaze in her eyes to brighten. "You're right! It's hard to think she would say those things even if it was an act."

She looks very relieved. "Silly girl." He lightly knocked her forehead. "The only one I like is you."

The only one he loved in this lifetime is her, and he is sure it will be the same in his future lives too. In his next lifetime, he will still be madly in love with a girl called Ibuki Sumire.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 282

Chapter 282: One day will..

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So Sumire asked Shouko that question. Even though that time he was in Holy Knights, she never mentioned it. However, she did talk about being jealous. Still, he watched the girl talk away. He supposed talking with her was the best option after all.

"Chou-sensei tends to go for the guys who are the good looking and smiling type like the class President. That's why he was bitter towards Riku at first.." She chuckles.

"It was amusing watching those guys completing his challenges three seconds and perfectly too. Then Toujo-san suddenly showed up and issued them a challenge. I was honestly scared when I saw that serious glint in Asou's eyes. He always takes matches seriously, after all. Though right afterward, the other members of the cast started asking him for advice. It was nice since, at the start, others treated as outcasts."

Such a gentle look in her eyes, so this is what the others were talking about. "You seem like you're having a lot of fun."

When did she bond with their classmates like that?

Sumire laughs softly. "Aha, is that what it seems like? But yes, it is fun. Yuhi-san, what about you? "

"Hmm me?"

"You're not going to talk to me about your adventures? I would like to hear it. Although since it's you, you were probably causing people trouble."

"Hey, hey, why do you still have that impression of me?"

"Secret."

Yuhi felt his cheeks heat up once she said those words. Man, even now, she still does this. Clearly, it didn't go unnoticed since she chuckled, but he noted that a light pink also appeared on her cheeks. Whether or not it was due to the darkness of the night, but his vision distorted. Or maybe this is what people call being blind in love. Either way, at least he can't mistake the smile on the girl's face.

Even though he is older, it feels like they've returned back to the days in middle school. It's almost as though they're still children. But he is no fool. As each day goes by, Ibuki Sumire grows even more beautiful. Besides, she already has one child.

The child, huh? Yuhi honestly did not have a proper opinion on the kid just yet. Both Sumire and he did not experience normal family life, so he understands that she is confused too. There are days where it feels like she wants to hold onto the kid and not let go. But there are also days where he finds the child crying, and Sumire crouched down on the ground frightened.

Her condition has gotten better, and she does seem happier lately.

"The nights are still cold, aren't they?" Sumire asked.

Yuhi merely nodded and did not respond.

His thoughts broke once they arrived at a familiar park; the cherry blossoms are still in full bloom. The pink petals scattering due to the strong wind, he watches the brunette's gaze. "So pretty."

Yuhi watched as she ran over to the center and began to spin around, holding the petals in her hands. He, too, made his way over. Although he usually passed this place before, he did not pay much attention before. He could see why she called it pretty. How strange for there to be cherry blossoms when it is July already.

But these trees only look beautiful to him because of her.

"Yuhi?"

"Hmm?" Yuhi could not help but stare at her.

"This kind of feels like a date. "

"Hah, if this isn't a date, then why did I spend that much money?"

Sumire sighed. "Don't be so petty Mr number one, your loaded so--" He cuts her off by backing her against the large tree in the center. Both of them dropped their bags as he cupped her cheeks.

"I can't take it anymore. You drive me crazy."

"Y-Yuhi.." Sumire laughed. "Uh, wait, time out."

"No time out. I want you all to myself." Yuhi buried his face in her chest. "Besides, lately, I haven't done anything; you have to make it up to me."

"Unpleasant."

"The unpleasant thing will come later, so let's go home."

He lifted his face from her chest, and in the next second, he felt a soft pair of lips on his cheek. "Then Yuhi-san has to listen to my requests today."

What kind of requests will she have?

Really, what is she saying suddenly? But he can't deny the girl's words. To anyone, it would look like a date after all, and he, too, felt the atmosphere. However, he doesn't want to get delusional, and he doesn't want to get his hopes up. To his surprise, though, the brunette suddenly reached for his arm.

"Can I borrow your hand for a bit?"

"Sure."

His eyes widened when she used his hand to pat her head. Oh, this, it's almost the same as that time. But he knew something differed this time.

He, too, does the same.

A conversation they had before he departed appeared in his head. It was the day after she rejected him.

"You know Yuhi-san. It really would have been better for you if you fell in love with a cute little kohai who is a completely normal girl with dreams and not someone who is cursed. Maybe it would be easier for you. Perhaps if I were normal, then we would have met differently.

I would have seen you and thought, what a cool senpai and fangirl like other girls. We would end up brushing against each other in the corridors, and you would end up saving me from strange guys. Then one day, I would call you up to the rooftop and confess. I mean, even if you did have feelings for me, Yuhi-san, you surely won't be able to do something like that."

"But you know none of that can happen now. It can only remain a dream."

That was also the day he left to go to Tokyo, the day he decided it was not enough. He still has to do more for her to come to him. It was because she turned him down then that he even got this far in a short amount of time.

A dream, huh? Is the relationship they have now something as fragile as a dream? One day will she leave his side? Yuhi shook his head, and there is no use thinking about such things now. Besides, he looked over at the girl who secretly glanced his way. He ought to deal with her teasing him so much.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 283

Chapter 283: A tear coloured rondo

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

It became a habit of his to smoke after doing it. Today was not any different. His gaze fell on the girl fast asleep beside him. Honestly, he tries to avoid doing this with her for a reason. The two of them are still young, they have plenty of time in the future. Right now he knew her career was more important to her.

Yuhi brushed a strand of hair away from her face before leaning down and kissing her forehead. This girl has become so precious to him. He will do anything for her, he will give her the world if she asks for it.

Not only has he become mushy and soft but he has gone crazy too. If anybody heard him speak they would think he is crazy. But sometimes it feels like this girl has him caught under some kind of spell.

Its not like he minds it too much. Yuhi removed the cigarette from his mouth and tossed it aside as he joined her on the bed. For now he should rest and hopes she has sweet dreams too.

.....

The thing with Ibuki Sumire is she has this bad habit of running away after they do anything intimate. So it did not surprise him when he woke up and didn't find her beside him. He went about his day as normal; despite being distracted at work, he managed. But after all his jobs, he looked all over for her.

Yuhi looked around, hoping to catch a glimpse of brown hair, but unfortunately couldn't find her. She does run fast, even though there was only a five-minute gap between his chasing after her. He shuts his eyes and sensed that she was not in the council building. Perhaps...she couldn't make it that far? The thought alone worried him.

The closest place from here would be that hill. It was worth a shot. The rain poured harder, and before he knew it. Large sounds of thunder appeared in the sky. It just has to start raining now, huh? Ah, come

to think of it. It was like that then, too—that time when he first discovered her secret. No, when she first revealed it to him.

....

A few months ago, shortly after she came.

Yuhi couldn't believe it; how did it end up like this? A pair of soft and yet hungry lips on his. The lips of the girl he loves. He was happy, and yet he felt the sadness that poured out while she kissed him. It would be easy for him to pull her away, but he did not do that.

Once they pulled away from each other, both panted heavily due to the intensity of the kiss. However, immediately after she pulled away, the girl burst into a fit of coughs. His eyes widened, alarmed when he saw the blood that came out.

"S--Sumire."

"Heh..I guess this is what I get, huh. You were right to reject me after all. This would have eventually happened," Sumire explained. This would have happened if they got together and she kissed him? Is this why? She didn't want him to touch her anymore.

He didn't know why he did it. He will regret it later, but he grabbed hold of her arm. This led to them directly looking at one another.

"No, I-" Sumire said, looking away, but he lifted her chin, so she stared directly at him.

"Sumire...why do you always look away from me," Yuhi said, somewhat puzzled and angry. Since he found her spying on him earlier, she avoided his gaze. Since he saw her again, no, she was like this from when they met again when they were older. She has never looked at his eyes properly.

She chuckles and moved away from him and glanced directly up the tree. "Remember that promise?" Sumire brought up again.

Yuhi nodded his head. "How could I forget.."

"We better keep it." She began.

.....

It was something that happened shortly after she transferred. But that only happened that one time, the several times they kissed afterward, she seemed fine.

Back then, he kept that promise. He kept it not because he agreed. The truth was back then, and he already had such thoughts of wrapping his arms around the girl and not letting her go.

He only kept his word than when he saw the look in the girl's eyes and her tone. It was the first time since he first saw her again that she sounded that way—that feebleness and weakness.

His ex-girlfriend Miyazawa Makino noticed it before. His type of girl is the strong-willed ones with weak sides like Sumire.

Yuhi spotted her immediately, her back against the tree. Her arms hugged around her body, and her cheeks flushed. Her eye color flicked back and forth from brown to red before it settled on a bloodshot red. If somebody else were to see her now, they would certainly get crushed by her pressure or run away in fear. But he wasn't like that at all. Yuhi doesn't hesitate to take a step forward.

She hides it very well. Back when he was in the same group with her in the underworld society, people often praised her for hiding her pain. Yuhi always found it stupid but did not bother explaining it to them.

He recalled the brief eye contact from just now. That was a sign for help. Geez, she is way too indirect and stubborn. Yuhi reached over. "Sumire--!"

"Don't look at me!" She shrieked.

She is in so much pain. Yuhi recalled the incident at the convenient store not too long ago.

A pain he can relate with, and yet he can't share it with her. He wants to tell her that it is the same with him too. He wants to say that they can share this pain together, but if he revealed it,, she might care less.

"Ahh....don't look....Yuhi..."

How can he look away when she's in so much pain right in front of him? How could he possibly do so? He watched as her breathing became unnatural and frowned; Yuhi grabbed hold of her arm. " No, don't come any closer."

"Sumire."

Sumire shook her head and attempted to escape from his grasp, "No! Let go of me!"

But he didn't let up for a second. She is very stupid; why is she even now trying to hide it? If she's in pain, she should just say so. Yuhi pulled her closer and stares into her eyes as he said her name seriously.

"Sumire!"

When he saw the tears well up in her eyes, his eyes went wide, and yet he pulled the girl in a deep embrace. Yuhi immediately felt a prick in his neck, and he winced a little as he felt the blood from his body being drained bit by bit. Yet, at the same time, he felt a wash of sadness; the girl's tears clearly had yet to stop.

He cradled her in his arms and did not say anything more as he caressed her hair as she continued to drink. Sumire, he wants to get stronger too so she will no longer have to cry or suffer like this.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 284

Chapter 284: I want to do something for him

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

"I want to understand him. Someone told me that doing that is fine, but someone also told me to lay down the boundaries."

Sumire recalls very well the words she said to old man Nobucha. She had heard two pieces of advice, and in the end, the one she felt herself more drawn to was the understanding him factor. Although it really should have been the other one. After all, those words were from her fiance. Soujiro hadn't known she was a Yankee then, but he had often seen her with Yuhi.

When he saw them together all the time and discussing rather serious matters, the golden blonde hair boy directly told her not to get too involved. He told her, "That man is a mere dog. Even if you have to concern yourself with him, please draw a line and show your social statuses are different."

Old Man Nobucha had told her something similar to, "An elite is an elite. A dog is a dog. A relationship like that is better for you."

But although he said that, Sumire saw the look in the old man's eyes and understood. There was a hidden meaning behind his words.

Afterwards, he said.

"Understanding Terashima means seeing things like Terashima does and doing things in the same mindset as him. But if you do that, darkness will surround you. If you do that, then there is a chance - no, it's definite you won't be able to see the light ever again. I tried to bring him back to the light, but it was already too late then. I couldn't stop him from making that decision, what about you? Will you be drawn in, or will you be able to stop him? Ojou-chan, want to place a bet?"

Even though they warned her, it was only twice. She should have taken those words more seriously. No, she knew they were serious. But that did not stop her from wanting to know more and more about him.

She wants to know more about that person surrounded in such a dark color, and yet, in her eyes, it was so very beautiful.

"Sumire-chan, I have finished with the miso," Jae said, interrupting her thoughts.

After her breakdown, Yuhi led her back home and immediately put her in the kitchen where Jae was baking. He said something to Jae before leaving quickly.

She immediately understood despite not hearing the context of their conversation. Yuhi probably wants her to cheer up. She hugged the jacket still wrapped around her shoulders.

To think she cried like that, no, what was embarrassing was her drinking his blood. It was the first time she ever did that. Since she learned about her urges, she tried to drink her blood, but it did not quench her parched throat.

Even though she drank so much, Yuhi did not collapse and still carried her back home. That person is so very strange. Why does he never get mad at her no matter what happens?

"Ah, thank you." She catches a whiff of the plate in Jae's hands... "It smells lovely. You cook well, Jae."

"I should be saying those words to you, Sumire-chan. Even though back then you were prohibited from the kitchen."

Her sweatdropped. "Please forget that already."

Sumire glanced down at the pan and the oil brush and spatula in her hands. She brushed the oil away and poured the remaining egg batch. "But I suppose it's true, and I was terrible then."

It was only a few months ago where she could barely cook. When would she have learned how to cook? Ren didn't eat much, and he preferred takeaways like ramen. Mamoru spoilt her too much. Sano....well, they always ended up doing other things than eat.

"Indeed. Why the sudden change? It's not like you need to learn how to cook."

That's true. She received quite the scolding from Atushi, saying she shouldn't be coming here often.

But it seems Yuhi intervened.

"Yuhi did something, but I think Atushi let me because you were here."

"She probably believed that I would stop you."

"Aha, that might be the case. But the reason, huh? After a while, I felt bad letting Atushi cook Huan's meals after all since he is my son. There's that, and I practiced for Yuhi."

"For King?"

Sumire nodded, and a gentle smile appeared on her face.

"That guy gets hungry easily after all. From now onwards, he would be busier than ever, and I wanted to do something to help him, even if it's something minor like this. Since we cannot always be together."

"Is that so?"

A hint of red appears on her cheeks. "Considering how far apart we are now. This skill seems quite useless.."

"Even though I am a girl, I can't beat Jae's cooking. Even Atushi cooks better than me." It's a depressing thought.

Jae shook his head. "Not at all. I think it's wonderful. Sumire-chan, you've changed in contrast to before. That change is a good one too. Mamoru-san would be proud of you."

Ru would be proud of her? Even though he was the one who spoilt her so much.

"Shall we finish off?"

"Yes."

If Ru could see her now, she wonders what he would think.

....

After they finished the dishes they rearranged everything onto the dining table. Sumire felt very nervous when Jae said he would fetch Yuhi. It turned out that Yuhi left to take a nap. So it seems like it had

affected him after all, her drinking his blood. A deep sigh crosses her lips as she gazes at the plates on the table. Will he be happy with something like this? Ever since she came here, she has caused Yuhi so many problems. She once to do something to help him for once. Will something like this do?

She fidgeted about uneasily before she walked over to the table and rearranged some of the dishes.

"That looks good." A familiar voice whispered in her ear. Sumire, startled, almost fell backward onto the table, but Yuhi grabbed her arm. "Easy there."

"Yuhi."

"You're not feeling weird still, right?" Yuhi parted her bangs and brushed his hand across her forehead. "You seem fine, but why are you red?"

Indeed right now, her entire face was redder than the dress she wore. Her heartbeat sped up, and she could hear the sound clearly, thump, thump, and thump. What is wrong with her? Why does she feel this way whenever he gets so close to her like this? It was not like this with Ru. Why is it so different with Yuhi?

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 285

Chapter 285: Ability to understand

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

The ability to understand others just by touching exists. There might not be any reason to be afraid of touching and being touched by others or hugging and being hugged by others.

During the entire meal, Sumire felt very tense. She tried to avoid eye contact with Yuhi. So she quickly finished and hurried over to the kitchen area to wash her plates.

But that didn't last long when she felt a familiar presence behind her. It seemed that Yuhi followed her right after her.

"So hey," Yuhi mumbled against her ear. "That was good, thank you, Sumire."

T--too close, way too close! What on earth is he doing standing so close?

"Thank you so much." He repeated.

The way Yuhi seemed to draw out each syllable made her heartbeat even more. He must be doing this deliberately!

"So it's not just my imagination after all. I noticed it on the way back. Don't you smell kind of good today? Kind of like a flower fragrance?"

She almost forgot about making him notice her. She thought she would tease him a little along the way, but now that he noticed, she felt nervous.

Sumire casually responds, though, "R--I don't know?"

"It's prohibited to overdo it". Her best friend back in her hometown was the complete opposite her. She was the typical average teenage girl who likes gossip and, in her words, was a romance expert. That friend of hers told her many things about how to tease a guy. But now that she has tried it, Sumire realized that she might have overdone this.

He has a sensitive nose. Sumire only put a little on herself, and yet he noticed right away. Then again, he was rather close to her earlier. "It's just you isn't it? It's weird. If your that curious, check it out yourself." Sumire tried to act coy about this.

But she didn't think he would immediately take action.

He suddenly grabbed hold of her arm and bent down; her eyes widened.

When it comes to teasing, men can easily do it. Yuhi-san always lets her tease him, but she did not think much of it. But now? Now that the situation has been reserved, she finally understood. He could easily get back at her if he wanted.

"Perfume, eh?"

She felt her cheeks color more. "I see, so you know what the right amount is?"

Wh--what is he talking about? She used it randomly.

"Girls should smell like this, and you know that pretty well, huh?"

At those words, she felt her entire face redden. That sly smirk on his face and his voice.

Uwaa... what's with that sly smile?

Sumire feels her knees go weak, and she slumps to the ground. "That's sexual harassment! Don't mess around !!" She exclaimed.

"Hm? What's wrong? Have your feet gone all wobbly?"

"Y--your fault!" Sumire exclaimed.

"Heh." Yuhi chuckled. "You're so cute today. You even cooked for my sake?"

"T-that-" She can't deny those words. Sumire could no longer hide her embarrassment and buried her face in his arms.

He is so unfair, and this is no good. She keeps falling more in love with this person.

"You're acting very cute today. What is it? If you want to do it, we need to go upstairs."

She immediately understood what he was saying, causing her face to heat up more. Why is he saying it like this? She can't lecture him like usual for teasing her.

Yuhi lifted her face. "You want to that much? You know staying silent is bad for you. If you don't say no, I will-" His sentence fell short when they heard the sound of the door followed by the cry of a child.

Her eyes brightened, and she immediately left Yuhi's arms and rushed out of the room. In the center of the bar was Atsuro speaking with Atushi, a familiar bundle in Atushis arms.

Atushi called her over and passed the child. "Atsuro thought you wouldn't be here since there are many elite gatherings recently."

Sumire rolled her eyes. "Why do I have to attend such things?"

"I am sure your fiance is crying right about now."

"Soujiro said he would handle it." She did suggest that she would attend too. But he seemed reluctant for some reason.

"Ah, my cute huan." Sumire rubbed her face against the little child, who beamed happily.

Such an adorable little bun, ahh, is he related? Sumire doubted it whenever she saw the child.

"Is there nothing wrong?" Yuhi asked Atsuro.

"Not that I can see. But, still, be careful if you intend to walk around with the child. Not only is it bad for your images, but his powers are unstable."

"That's okay, I won't take him out," Sumire spoke up. "I understand it's a sensitive time. This isn't good for the child, keeping him cooped up inside. But I don't want to ruin his peaceful life."

She does not want the child to see how ugly this world can be. He will learn that in the future, but for now, she wants to shield him from the darkness.

That's right, and this is for the best.

Atsuro sighed deeply. "Well, if you think that, then fine. But there are other options, you know."

"Other options?"

"Send the child abroad. The reporters won't be able to find the child there."

Indeed he makes a point there. If she keeps this up, then they will eventually find her.

Yuhi shook his head. "There is no need. I will protect them both. As long as I am here, nothing will happen."

At that comment, he squeezed their hands tightly.

Not using words, but rather using methods.

They can communicate distinctly like this.

Communication, through touch and somehow even without words, they can get the message across. She unconsciously leaned forward and rested her head on his chest.

This warmth, it seems she does not want to lose it. No matter how selfish she became.

Atsuro clicked his tongue, annoyed. "Are you two going to flirt in front of me?"

Sumire nodded. "Yes."

Yuhi laughed. "So adorable."

A dark gaze appeared on Atsuro's face, but Sumire looked away. She no longer has any use for him. It may be cruel of her, but she never held such feelings for him. The only one she needs is Terashima Yuhi.

Her thoughts broke off when she felt the child in her arms stir. "Ma!"

No, that's wrong. What she needs right now are these two, Yuhi and this child.

The ability to understand through touch and not words, huh? This child's hands are so small. Far smaller than her own, and yet it holds onto her so very tightly.

"If, if he could see this sight, would he be happy for her?" She wonders why she is even having such thoughts. That person is no longer around. A hollow feeling appeared in her heart and her gaze dimmed.

That's right, and she doesn't deserve this. How selfish of her. How can she smile like this? "How can I smile without you?"

This is wrong.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 286

Chapter 286: Red coloured bookmark

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Strong in the rain

Strong in the wind

Strong against the summer heat and snow."

"He is healthy and robust.

Free from desire

He never loses his temper.

Nor the quiet smile on his lips

He eats four go of unpolished rice.

Miso and a few vegetables a day."

"He does not consider himself. In whatever occurs . . . his understanding. Comes from observation and experience

And he never loses sight of things."

" He lives in a little thatched-roof hut.

In a field in the shadows of a pine tree grove

If there is a sick child in the east

He goes there to nurse the child.

If there's a tired mother in the west

He goes to her and carries her sheaves."

"If someone is near death in the south.

He goes and says, "Don't be afraid."

"If there are strife and lawsuits in the north. He demands that the people put an end to their pettiness.

He weeps at the time of drought."

"He plods about at a loss during the cold summer.

Everyone calls him Blockhead.

No one sings his praises.

Or takes him to heart . . ."

"That is the kind of person I want to be. " She whispered ever so quietly.

Sumire extended her hand out; what a vast sky. Such a vast and far away sky. It's not something that can be reached by merely extending her hand out.

It's something she understood well. If it is something that others can reach that easily, then there probably wouldn't be any more hardships. There would not be any suffering and misfortunes. When that happens, will she finally be able to confront the past she left behind?

"I'm so happy regardless. I really am. These past few weeks have been like a dream. I thought to myself like this was normal. And maybe I could have said it properly too."

"I was so very happy, I was..."

As of late, it became painful to bear. Almost suffocating even, she couldn't breathe whenever she thought about what happened that time a few months ago.

Why did she suddenly remember it? Even though after that night, Aki-san took her away, and she cried for three days straight. Even after that, she didn't bring it up again. She acted like her usual self...

Perhaps for a little while, she was able to forget about it. After all, so many things happened during the time frame of the month afterwards. For a little bit, she was able to forget this pain. This longing and desire, the desire for a person she can no longer have.

Her thoughts broke of when she hears the door behind her open, and she had been sitting out on the steps outside the bar.

"Sumire? What are you doing out here? It must be cold." Atushi said, appearing through the doorway.

"I was watching the stars."

"I'm also running away from Yuhi, but there is no need for him to know that."

Atushi joins her. "I see. It's almost time, huh? "

"Yes."

"It's almost been a year since then."

Almost a year since when she put on that heartfelt performance conveying her feelings. To her most important person. "Atushi, do you think I'll be able to become a true idol?"

"Hmmm, I wonder about that..you are quite a clumsy person."

Hey! At that comment, she glared harshly at him.

But he continues. "Let's admit it, and you're not exactly the friendliest person in the world when you meet new people. Also, your personality is bad, your rude, harsh, and a violent person. Really when I first heard about it, I was worried. Though you can sing and dance, with all those traits, I wondered if you'd be alright."

When she heard those words, Sumire could only sigh. "I can't deny such things."

"Isn't it difficult traveling back and forth?" She decided to change the topic swiftly.

He shook his head but paused as if something came to mind.

"Well. If you call getting showered by freebies since I became a well-known member and VIP treatment, then I guess you can call it difficult."

At that comment, she merely rolled her eyes, really what a fool. But quite, some time has passed since the two of them last spoke like this. She wasn't the only one who had such thoughts.

"Quite some time has passed since we last spoke to each other this way. You've been rather busy, and so am I; though we see each other in raids, we don't have much time to speak with each other properly. " The student council president" and yet also " Akagaumi"s number two, with that said I've also been quite busy eh?"

Sumire smiled softly. "You shouldn't complain."

He sighs, " Irohsan is quite the handful."

"Ah, speaking of which Irohchan and that person appear to be getting along now? It seems like they tweet to each other often. Though it appears to be quite one-sided, that girl isn't a person for words. Oh, but you know, during the movie premiere a while ago, she seemed hyped up."

Lately, she has logged onto her social media again. She saw all the posts and interactions from her friends back home on her feed. The others appear to be doing well, thank goodness.

"Time has moved forward for them."

The more she spoke, she noticed a gentle smile appear on Atushi's face. "Atushi...?"

"I remembered how different you are now, in contrast to how you were before. In middle school, I mean. I was surprised, you know? When I came to Tsukuhara and saw how much you changed. Though I only caught a glimpse of it at first since you moved classes for awhile. You knew everything from advanced maths to being a master of liberal arts subjects.

You amazed me. But those things I always felt you held back anyway, so that wasn't what surprised me. When I saw you with the guys, it made me think about you more. It was the first time, after all, that I saw you with such a smile on your face. After all, back then, you were looking far into the distance as if you were searching for something. Then again at that time, I - no, I understand you as much as I claimed."

To think he had such thoughts this entire time. Ever since he came here, he has not said much and silently watched over her. But, Atushi can probably see the changes in her. Everything is changing because of Yuhi.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 287

Chapter 287: As long as I have him

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

"I am sure right now you are trying to find the answer. Your mind is jumbled and a complete mess right now. But, is it something to do with Yuhi?"

Her expression dropped when she heard him say those words. "Is it okay for me to say it?"

"Well, if it's anything about a lovers quarrel, then I don't want to hear it."

Sumire suddenly starts throwing light punches at him, and he swiftly dodges each one. "Meanie! Meanie, why do you have to say it like that?"

"Yeah yeah."

"Today... I spent time with Yuhi since it's rare that he had a day off. I wanted to visit Ru, and along the way, I realized it had been a while since we last went out together. It had been a lot of fun, and I was happy..." She trails off. "But as expected, that happiness didn't last long."

Her gaze darkened slightly, "Yuhi...told me..." what would you do if I were to study in France?""

At that comment, she watched as Atushis face color turned pale. It seems like everybody else knew about it.

"Ah....when he said that, I didn't know how to respond at all. I didn't say anything, and it must have shown on my face since he pulled me close to him and said he was only kidding around. Yet I could tell from the way he held me and how he said it he was serious. I always thought that as long as I have Yuhi with me now, I could manage all these burdens.

He is one who gave me strength this entire time. But at the same time, I know I can't hold him back. So I decided that if there is something he truly wishes to do, I won't stop him, and yet despite deciding that. When I finally heard it from him...I....I couldn't smile..." Sumire's voice trembled.

Atushi extended his hand out and patted her hair. "Go upstairs; Yuhi must be waiting for you."

She immediately understood what he was getting at. "Talk to him about this." But that was easier said than done. "It's not happening right away; I know that, but..."

"Why are you waiting out here anyway? Isn't Yuhi upstairs?"

At that comment, she fidgeted uncomfortably. "W-well uh..."

"Are you running away again?" Atushi guessed.

At that comment, her composure vanished entirely, and she played with a strand of her hair. "I don't know what to do when he acts that bold." She admitted.

"I thought you liked honest people?"

"Uh, that's beside the point; he is way too honest." Moreover, he is honest about things people would normally hide. Is it because he has previous experience? Sumire never thought about it before, but Yuhi has gone out with other girls before.

Now that she thinks about this aren't their rumors about him sleeping around? Sano also mentioned it.

Uhhh, her head hurts just thinking about this.

"Then Sumire-chan, shall I give you some advice?"

"Advice?"

Atushi nodded. "What you do when Yuhi acts like a beast..."

.....

When she finally did go upstairs, Yuhi strummed some chords on his guitar while looking at the moon. She was momentarily star-struck and didn't realize when he got close to her. Before she knew it, he was kissing her intently, and in the next moment, she was on the bed.

"What's wrong?" Yuhi raised his head from her legs. "Are you nervous again?"

"A little." Sumire hesitantly ran her fingers across his black locks. Even though she trusts him, a part of her is still afraid. What if he turns his back on her? What if this is all he wants from her?

No matter how clueless she is about romance, even she knew how much Yuhi desired her. Just a brief contact with him, and his desires overflow. But unlike with Sano, there was something different. He desires her, and yet there is something more.

"Say Yuhi-san?"

"What is it, love?"

Sumire felt her heartbeat more at those words, and she quickly said. "Atsuro looked a bit strange."

Sumire immediately regretted her words after she said it. A somewhat disturbing expression appeared on Yuhi's face, but she didn't get a chance to question it.

"Are you worried about him?"

N--no, of course not! Sumire managed to not respond suspiciously and coughed. "About Shin, you know how Atsuro can get when he is in a weird mood. Shin is still recovering too."

Yuhi relaxed a little and nodded. "I understand, but even if he is like that, he does care for Shin. But if you're that worried, you could run after him."

"How can you say that in this situation?"

"We can stop?" He said with a teasing smile.

This person is so cruel sometimes! The way he teases her like this whenever they get affectionate. He always makes her say embarrassing things too.

"But you're right; stopping now would be bad. What else should we do?"

"F--first take a bath!" Sumire exclaimed. "You got soaked from the rain earlier but didn't get changed, right?!"

A deep sigh escaped Yuhi's lips. "You always use that as an excuse for me to stop. Well, alright, I will listen to this once." He quickly got off her and headed to the bathroom.

A relieved sigh escaped her lips. She recalled what Atushi said and shook her head; how can she do that to Yuhi? Besides, if she did that, he would get mad, wouldn't he? The two of them are dating. It is okay to refuse, but if she refuses that strongly he will surely be upset.

This is the time for her to be brave and show him. Sumire peeked over at the bathroom door and paused. But is it fine? He seemed irritated. If she went in now, maybe he would tease her more, and it would end up bad. Gahhh, what does she even want from Yuhi? There are times where it felt like it would be okay to get lost in the flow and just do it with him.

It seems the only way to find out is to get closer. Sumire took a deep breath before she left the bed and walked over to the bathroom area.

The moment she stepped inside, it was hard to see since steam covered the area.

"Sumire?"

"Mmm." She buried her face in his back, and he sighed deeply.

"If you don't want to, you should go. Lately, I don't trust myself around you too much."

A nervous burst of laughter escaped her lips when she heard him say those words. She did think he was behaving oddly but to think this was the reason. This person intends to treasure her even though he has to hold back.

Sumire mumbled something quietly. "I don't mind Yuhi-san." This is her honest feelings. "I don't mind at all. But I just get nervous even if it is stupid of me."

Yuhi turned around and slammed her against the wall. "Geez, don't say such things. Do you know that only makes your situation worse?"

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 288

Chapter 288: What can I do?

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Then what is she supposed to do? Sumire thought if she were honest like this, then it would be enough, but her thoughts broke off when Yuhi buried his face in her chest.

"It isn't you, it's me, I go crazy whenever you are around me. I must be crazy; why do I like you this much?"

Her eyes widened when she heard him say those words. Indeed if given a chance, it was something she wanted to ask him too. Why does he like her so much when others around her are prettier, talented, and have a better voice? At first, Sumire thought Yuhi liked her only because of her voice. But even when she refused to sing, he remained by her side.

Her thoughts broke off when he got off her and walked over to the bathtub area. Sumire took a deep breath before she followed him.

"I thought you got embarrassed taking baths together."

"I do."

"But you joined me?" He seemed half curious and half-amused. Yuhi tugged on the thin material of her clothes and frowned. "You should take this off; it's already wet anyway."

Right she joined him without giving it much thought. Sumire tilted her head innocently. "Take it off?"

Yuhi extended his hand out and flicked her forehead. "Brat, take it off yourself."

She watched as he turned around, and Sumire sighed. That was an invitation! It was her best move to seduce him, and yet he had to respond that way.

Sumire quickly removed the soaked garment of.

She felt a bit self-conscious but shook her head. He has already seen everything.

"Finished?"

"Mm."

Yuhi turned around but not after dumping a whole bottle of bubbles onto the tub. She rolled her eyes. "Yuhi-san, I thought your self-control was breaking or something?"

"It is, and that is why I'm taking measures."

Sumire rested her back against his chest, and he flinched. She laughed at his reaction. "So cute."

"So uh about earlier."

This was one of the reasons why she ran away after dinner.

"Taking blood will eventually become normal for you."

"But Yuhi-" She doesn't want to get hurt.

"Did it taste bad or something? Sorry, I should have asked you."

Her eyes widened when she saw the expression on his face. "N--no!" Sumire exclaimed. "It was good, and I liked it."

Yuhi laughed and ruffled her hair. "Then there is no need to worry."

How can he say that so calmly? Unless he did that with other people?

"You know when you're ready, I would also like to.."

Uh, what? She watched as his face turned redder. Wow, she never saw this expression on his face before. But "I can't even make fun of him." How can she tease him when he looks that red?

It's not just him too, and her heart is beating so fast.

"I didn't say that to make you feel nervous."

"I know, but I just am."

Why does she feel like this? It feels so very foolish right now.

"I said when we first began dating that we could take our time with this stuff."

Right he mentioned that he wouldn't pressure her. Indeed he stuck to that promise; he does not directly pressure her but does so indirectly.

"You're a beast," Sumire mumbled.

"A beast?" Yuhi lightly kissed her lips. "Well, teasing aside, you're a bit skinnier than usual."

"Ah."

"When I'm not here, you have to remember to eat."

"This time, it isn't deliberate. I was concentrating too much on Jun-kun's song."

Whenever she ends up focusing on anything, it ends up this way.

"For Kira Jun, huh?"

"Yuhi, what do you think?"

"I don't know Kira very well, so it's hard to give advice."

"I see."

"But if you want." Yuhi brought his lips to her neck. "I can give you some advice as long as you give me something in return."

"L-like?"

Yuhi chuckled. "It's up to you."

.....

It was difficult for her to get up in the morning, but she somehow managed it. Sumire walked around the streets with a grocery list in hand. "The best place to get these ingredients from..." Though there is a convenient store nearby, she wanted to make an extra special meal.

Sumire recalled Yuhi's words from last night and sighed. It wasn't a bad answer, but it wasn't the answer she expected either.

Yuhi can say that because he has the ability but for her-- Sumire shook her head. What use is there getting jealous? Besides, Yuhi isn't a genius. He isn't like Mamoru. Yuhi worked very hard to get to where he is now.

She understood that much whenever she saw his hands. "Rough hands from practicing too much." The amount of cough medicine he has the cabinets too. That person truly loves music.

Her thoughts broke off when she overheard people's conversations passing by. "Don't you think that guy looks like Kira Jun?"

"There is no way, though."

Jun-kun?

Sumire looked around, and she found him immediately. On the sidewalk benches by the road, she spotted a man with teal colored hair. He had his headphones on and a laptop—stacks of paper on his lap.

"He must be working on the song too." Even though I haven't finished composing yet."

It is rare for her to be stuck so long on a song for another person. Writing a song about herself and her feelings is hard, but it's easier to write about another person.

Sumire didn't know when but at some point, she sat down on the benches too. Now that she thought about it, the summer she accepted Mamoru. Jun-kun gave her some advice.

He usually is coldhearted and wears an indifferent expression on his face. But that time, he yelled and told her not to hesitate. It was because he said those words that she chased after Ru.

So many people gave her strength when she doubted herself. Jun-kun was one of the many people. "I want to repay them back somehow." Unlike Kou and Ran, Jun isn't as vocal about why he came to Tokyo. But Sumire understood it very well. This person is worried about her too.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 289

Chapter 289: Beating of my heart Part 1

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Jun had to admit he was tired; last night, he hadn't been able to get much sleep due to the video chat from his kohai. However, he made a schedule of when to get to bed to prepare for the journey the next day. It didn't stop his annoying Kohais to request a video chat with him at exactly midnight.

It's exactly like Sei to do something as inconsiderate and foolish as that. But to think his black hair, kohai went along with the idea too. The call was to congratulate him on the second tour and the movie. He suspected a congratulation would come along eventually from them. But he hadn't expected it to be at a completely unreasonable hour.

Senbi Nao looks worn out; indeed, his arms seemed a lot more thinner and didn't have the usual muscular look like before. He spies the brown hair girl from the corner of his eye. Does she know about it?

Jun didn't know when she came. But it seemed she was in deep thought about something. Then again, it was hard to tell what she was thinking. She did not keep in contact with anybody but Hamano Atushi.

He can't help but wonder about those two, though. Do they not harbor any feelings of affection for each other? His kohai is no longer holding himself back, and his feelings are obvious. But the one he couldn't get a read on was the brown-haired girl.

Does she not like him? The scene from their last day in that place is still fresh in his mind after all.

Jun shook his head, ah. Once again, it seems like his thoughts tend to shake off in an unexpected turn when it comes to her. When it comes to her, they always seem to be different.

"Jun-kun, you look tired." Sumire finally spoke up.

"Correct. I didn't get any sleep last night. Sei insisted on a rather distributive wake up call." Jun explained.

He didn't know why. But there was something inside him that told him to lie about seeing Senbi Nao in that condition.

Sumire chuckles. "Fuufu that's exactly like him, though. Is he well?"

"Yes. He is enjoying his acting career to the fullest."

"I see that's good..." She trails off and claps her hands. "Ah! I know. Since you're tired, Jun-kun, you can use my shoulder to sleep on. It is because of Sei-kun that you didn't get any sleep after all."

He doesn't understand what that has to do with her. But there's no reason for him not to accept the offer.

"Very well. I'll be troubling you the-" Jun paused when he recalled something. "I shall be fine."

Sumire tilted her head puzzled but nodded.

"I can't let her get in trouble again." Something similar happened before, and it caused many misunderstandings."

Besides, this girl is far too careless; even now, she gets into trouble a lot. "Sumire-san, you're in a relationship now. Please be more careful." He understood that she meant nothing by it, but she shouldn't behave this way.

Her gaze softened, and she laughed softly. "That's true. A relationship, huh?"

There is something lonely about her tone. "You should have spoken up."

"Sorry, sorry, but you looked like you were concentrating very hard."

"Terashima isn't with you?"

Ever since they came here, Jun observed that Terashima seldom left her side. He understood the reason why. Whenever she is alone, she ends up with that spaced-out look on her face.

"Ah, he is asleep. I came out here to buy groceries."

Jun closed his laptop and put it away, including his headphones.

"Then let's go."

Sumire laughed. "Okay!"

Jun isn't very familiar with Tokyo. Whenever he came here in the past, it was brief, and somebody chauffeured him around. But he was at least better than Sumire-san when it came to directions. For the past few minutes, he didn't know how many times.

"Are you settling into Tokyo?"

"It is no problem, but Sumire-san, aren't you going the wrong way?"

"Gah, your right!"

The main reason he decided to accompany her was this, and this girl still has a bad habit of getting lost.

His thoughts broke off when she left his side and rushed up to a nearby street stall. "Jun-kun look it's on sale." She points to some watermelon and other fruits.

Shouldn't she know better than to buy things from street stalls? Then again, Sumire-san is the type who does not discriminate against anybody.

"Sumire-san, I have always wondered why you like sales."

"It is important to save money!"

"That argument is not convincing since you use so much money on books."

"But it is rare, Jun-kun! Those ones are hard to find first edition copies."

"You splurge on art supplies too."

At that comment, Sumire froze and then suddenly exclaimed. "Is this why I am always broke?"

This girl is an heiress, and yet she talks about having no money. Then again, he heard that she could not touch the inheritance before she is eighteen. Before she became an idol, exactly how did she make money?

He did not get a chance to ponder on that before a crowd surrounded them. Jun gradually grew irritated, but Sumire shouted some excuse about Nakara Shin having a photoshoot on the beach before he could lose his temper. In the next second, he wore her hat, and she grabbed his wrist and pulled away. Ah, the scenery is different.

Even though he's already been in a situation like this once before with that girl.

..

For them to get ambushed, eventually Jun thought he was prepared for it. But he underestimated Tokyo. But Sumire-san, like she was used to running away, managed to get them away.

Somehow with Sumire, it's different.

Whenever she quotes from a book or that time, she explained the meaning of Shakespeare's stories to him. There was a different aura around her, one he really couldn't explain properly. Yet, there was something about it that always seemed to captivate him.

He couldn't pull away.

Eventually, she lets go of his hand and laughs. "Aha, it's been a long time since I ran that far." Sumire laughed lightly. "Jun-kun, are you alright?"

"Yes. It's no problem."

Even so, she suddenly seems rather pale. Is it because of the heat? When he saw the sweat marks on the girl's face, he realized what the cause was. He placed the hat back onto her hair.

"Jun-kun?"

"You'll get sick. No one will recognize me if we walk around in a busy area." Jun stated calmly, "There's no need for you to risk your health."

"Besides, it is even riskier for people to recognize her." It surprised him when he did not immediately see news reports about her when she came to Tokyo. She must have taken measures to hide.

It's all in the open which school she attends now. But, Jun still wanted to protect her from the media.

ETERNAL MELODY Chapter 290

Chapter 290: Beating of my heart Part 2

If audio player doesn't work, press Stop then Play button again

Jun clenched his fist at the memory that flashed through his head. "That was the first time I felt so hopeless." When he could do nothing like the media published awful news about her. How the public quickly turned their backs on her.

Sumire blinks but chuckles. "Alright."

Jun was always under the impression that his observations are spot on. That once he collected enough data about a person from observing them, there is no longer any need to do so.

He was always under the impression that as long as he did that, he would understand every individual he comes in contact with. But he made an error in his calculations. Despite observing several different girls and boys, when he met Sumire, she wasn't like the rest.

From the very start, that much he knew. When the president first introduced her to be their exclusive composer, his first impression was not much, a slightly above average in terms of looks normal high school girl. She looked naive and innocent.

Yes, she was undoubtedly clumsy and naive. She fell for Kou's flirting so quickly like that. But even though she is like that. Her music immediately attracted him; it only took one listen. It didn't make any sense.

"Look Jun-kun takiyoaki."

Indeed there was the stall that he had seen Ran mark out on the map. "Ah, wait a minute."

Sumire walked over and ordered two before he could protest. He doesn't want any. Or rather, it's something he never had before. But he did his research. It isn't exactly healthy food. It's typical to like something unhealthy. But he didn't want to participate in eating it.

He flicks open his guidebook to see it as the number one recommended food.

Takoyaki is a ball-shaped Japanese snack made of a wheat flour-based batter and cooked in a special takoyaki pan—ingredients such as diced octopus, tempura scraps, pickled ginger, and green onion for the filling.

Takoyaki brushed with takoyaki sauce, similar to Worcestershire sauce and mayonnaise, and then sprinkled with green laver and shavings of dried bonito.

Even if it does seem to have healthy seafood ingredients, adding the various sauces on top makes it an unhealthy meal. Why serve something like this as the number one recommendation? Unless they plan to kill people?

As he debated about it in his head, he didn't notice the brown-haired girl already making her way over.

He had heard his name called out several times. But found himself concentrating on whether or not his theory is right. He didn't notice her until she appeared right in front of him.

"Jun-kun?"

"Ah. Sorry I was thinking."

Sumire smiles. Right. But you should eat some before they get cold."

Jun glanced down and saw the oil practically oozing out the food as she took one out. "I am afraid I will have to---" But he didn't get a chance to finish his sentence, as she put it inside his mouth.

He felt the oil mixing into his system and flinched. But after that was over, a seemingly nice texture and flavor took over.

Jun had to admit he was rather surprised.

"Is it good?"

"Yes..."

Sumire's eyes brightened. "Thank goodness."

Her smile, ah the life's returned to her eyes. But he wondered what it was, even though she was smiling, something is wrong.

"Look, Jun-kun okonomiyaki." She suddenly exclaimed.

What a coincidence again. This is the other place Ran wants to visit; he will be furious once he finds out. He will regret playing it cool. Well, it is best not mention anything, and Sumire isn't likely to blab.

This time, instead of a stand, it was a proper shop Okonomiyaki Choyo, written in huge lettering.

"You just ate."

He was one of the people who did believe that snacking so much before dinner wasn't good.

"Ehhh? But eating is good for me." Indeed it would be considering how skinny she has gotten.

He sighs. "Very well."

Before he could say anything else, Sumire suddenly stopped walking. "Yuhi?"

Jun looked over at where she was looking and saw a man with black hair leaning against the street pillar. He was gazing at the sky, and phone in hand.

"Yuhi!" Sumire beamed happily.

At that comment, he turned around. "Ah, mystery solved." He put his phone away and walked over.

"Hey, you." He picked Sumire-san up.

"You know you took way too long."

"Uh, sorry I wandered around for a bit."

So she already got lost before they met up? Then again, that bar is on the other side of town. It seems that part of her has not changed.

"Kira?" Yuhi looked over at him.

"Ah, I bumped into him."

"I see."

"Don't think anything weird okay?"

"I won't. But can I get something for you, leaving me alone for long?" Almost like it was fate, but a group of people walked by then and blocked his view. When the crowd dispersed, he saw a red-stained Sumire and smirking Terashima.

"Uhh..um." Sumire shyly covered her face, but he watched as Yuhi grabbed her hands.

"Your cute Sumire."

"I--I uh aha."

"This is my first time seeing her behave this way." Jun found this very fascinating. Although she looked clumsy and naive when they first met, it did not take him long to see the loneliness in her eyes.

"I-I will get us some drinks." Sumire quickly rushed off.

"Do you mind if I smoke?" Yuhi asked.

Jun shook his head and watched as the man pulled out a lighter.

"She seems to like you a lot."

"Hah, is that what it looks to others?"

Jun nodded. "It surprised me. She never makes that face."

"You've watched her a lot, huh?"

At that comment, Jun felt something like a pang sound in his heart. But he quickly shrugged it off.

"Observing people, I have done so for a long time."

To understand human emotions better, he decided to observe people. For as long as he could remember, he stopped having emotions.

"I see." Yuhi nodded. "But you know I'm not stupid. I don't think you've realized it yet, so I won't say anything, but no man appreciates it when somebody else watches their girlfriend that much."

"Is that jealousy?" But why? Jun didn't understand it. It's not like he has feelings for Sumire-san.

"When she is with you, she seems a bit strange." Jun decided to change the topic. "There seem to be weird flowers around her."

At that comment, Yuhi awkwardly scratched his head. "Flowers, huh? When she is around me?"

Jun continued to stare intently. It is weird. Sumire-san did not behave like that when she was together with Tsueno Mamoru or around Ichinose Arashi. This sudden drastic change in her behavior is because of Terashima Yuhi?

"Say.."

"Hmm?"

"You don't mind Sumire-san having a child?"

He heard many rumors regarding this man called Terashima Yuhi. But Jun always kept an objective mindset. Rumors are rumors, and he has to see things with his own eyes and confirm things. Based on his observations so far, Terashima is not a bad man.

"I do mind."

His eyes widened when he heard that response. He half expected the man to disagree. No, that is the typical response. Won't it reflect poorly if he admits he is not okay with it?